

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1.       **(Currently Amended)**               A method of controlling distribution of content through a communications network, the method comprising ~~steps of:~~  
receiving a request message for the content sent by a party through the communications network, the request message including information identifying the party;  
formulating a transaction indicia uniquely associated with the request message;  
conveying the transaction indicia to the party through a voice connection established with the party by announcing the transaction indicia to the party~~one of a parallel network and the communications network using the information identifying the party~~; and  
receiving a validation message containing the transaction indicia returned by the party ~~through the other of the communications network and the parallel network~~ through the communications network.
2.       **(Original)**               A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transaction indicia is used for validating only one request for content.
3.       **(Original)**               A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transaction indicia has a limited time to live and the content is not delivered unless the validation message is received before the time to live has expired.
4.       **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~step of~~formulating a transaction indicia comprises ~~a step of~~authenticating a right of the party to receive the content.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ~~step of~~authenticating a right of the party to receive the content comprises using a telephone number to determine ~~a step of determining~~ whether the party is located within a predetermined domain.
7. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the predetermined domain comprises at least one of:  
a predetermined geographical region;  
a service area of a network service provider;  
a company employee; and  
an Internet domain.
8. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ~~step of~~determining whether the party is located within a predetermined domain comprises ~~a step of~~using the information identifying the party to query a database that stores domain information related to the party.
9. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the step of conveying the transaction indicia to the party through the one of the communications network and the parallel network comprises steps of~~further comprising:  
establishing a the voice connection to the party through the ~~one of the communications~~telephone network ~~and the parallel network~~ using the information identifying the party; and  
~~conveying the transaction indicia to the party through the connection.~~

10. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ~~step of establishing the~~ voice connection to the party through the ~~one of the communications network and the parallel telephone network~~ comprises a ~~step of~~ determining an address of the party on the ~~one of the communications network and the parallel telephone network~~.
11. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the ~~step of determining an address of the party on the one of the communications network and the telephone parallel network~~ comprises a ~~step of~~ using the information identifying the party to query a database that stores address information associated with a device on the ~~one of the communications network and the parallel telephone network~~.
12. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ~~parallel network is the public-switched telephone network (PSTN), and the step of establishing a~~ the voice connection with the party through the ~~parallel telephone network~~ comprises setting up a call connection between an interactive voice response (IVR) unit and a telephone set associated with the party.
13. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~steps of~~:
- receiving information uniquely identifying a content delivery device associated with the party;
- generating an encryption key using the information uniquely identifying the content delivery device;
- encrypting the content using the encryption key; and
- forwarding the encrypted content to the content delivery device associated with the party through the communications network.

14. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the information uniquely identifying the content delivery device associated with the party comprises a media access control (MAC) address of the content delivery device.
15. **(Currently Amended)** A system for controlling distribution of content through a communications network, the system comprising:  
means for formulating a transaction indicia uniquely associated with a request message received through the communications network from a party requesting content delivery;  
means for conveying the transaction indicia to the party through ~~one of the communications network and a parallel network~~ a voice connection established with customer premise equipment associated with the party by announcing the transaction indicia to the party; and  
means for enabling the party to return the transaction indicia through ~~the other of the communications network and the parallel network~~ to initiate delivery of the content.
16. **(Original)** A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising means for authenticating a right of the party to receive the content.
17. **(Cancelled)**
18. **(Original)** A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the means for authenticating a right of the party comprises means for converting a network address associated with the party into a domain, and means for determining whether the domain is a domain to which the content may be delivered.
19. **(Original)** A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the means for converting a network address associated with the party comprises a database that relates domain information with the address associated with the party.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A system as claimed in claim 15, ~~wherein the means for conveying the transaction indicia to the party through the parallel network further comprising comprises:~~  
  
means for establishing a the voice connection through the ~~parallel telephone~~ network with customer premise equipment associated with the party; ~~and~~  
  
~~means for conveying the transaction indicia through the connection.~~
21. **(Currently Amended)** A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the customer premise equipment is programmed to automatically return the transaction indicia through the ~~data~~ communications network.
22. **(Currently Amended)** A system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the ~~parallel network is the public switched telephone network (PSTN), and the means for establishing a~~ the voice connection to the party through the ~~parallel telephone~~ network comprises setting up a call connection between an Interactive Voice Response unit (IVR) and a telephone set associated with the party.
23. **(Cancelled)**
24. **(Cancelled)**
25. **(Currently Amended)** A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the means for conveying the transaction indicia to the party through the voice connection comprises means for conveying the transaction indicia to the IVR and for prompting the IVR to communicate the transaction indicia to the party through the voice connection.
26. **(Original)** A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:  
  
a program script for probing a content delivery device associated with the party to obtain information uniquely identifying the content delivery device;

a program script for generating an encryption key using the information uniquely identifying the content delivery device;  
an algorithm for encrypting the content using the encryption key; and  
an algorithm for decrypting the encrypted content delivered through the communications network to the content delivery device.

27. **(Original)** A system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the program script is configured to probe the content delivery device for a media access control (MAC) address of the content delivery device.
28. **(New)** A method of controlling distribution of content through a communications network, the method comprising:  
receiving a request message for the content sent by a party through the communications network, the request message including information identifying the party;  
authenticating a right of the party to receive the content by determining whether the party is located within a predetermined domain using the information identifying the party;  
formulating a transaction indicia uniquely associated with the request message if the right of the party to receive the content is authenticated;  
conveying the transaction indicia to the party through one of a parallel network and the communications network using the information identifying the party;  
and  
receiving a validation message containing the transaction indicia returned by the party through the other of the communications network and the parallel network.
29. **(New)** A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the predetermined domain comprises at least one of:

a predetermined geographical region;  
a service area of a network service provider;  
a company employee; and  
an Internet domain.

30.     **(New)**                 A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein authenticating the right of the party to receive the content comprises determining if a telephone number associated with the party indicated by the information identifying the party is grouped within the predetermined domain.
31.     **(New)**                 A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the determining if a telephone number associated with the party is grouped within the predetermined domain comprises querying a database that stores domain information related to the party using the telephone number associated with the party.
32.     **(New)**                 A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the transaction indicia is used for validating only one request for content.
33.     **(New)**                 A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the information identifying the party comprises at least one of:  
  
an address of the party on the parallel network;  
a User ID; and  
a user password.
34.     **(New)**                 A system for controlling distribution of content through a communications network, the system comprising:  
  
means for authenticating a right of a party to receive content upon receipt of a request message received through the communications network from a party

requesting content delivery, the means for authenticating comprising means for determining whether the party is located within a predetermined domain using a telephone number associated with the party indicated within the request message;

means for formulating a transaction indicia uniquely associated with the request message if the right of the party to receive the content is authenticated;

means for conveying the transaction indicia to the party through one of the communications network and a parallel network; and

means for enabling the party to return the transaction indicia through the other of the communications network and the parallel network to initiate delivery of the content.

35. **(New)** A system as claimed in claim 34 wherein the parallel network comprises any one of a telephone network, a frame relay network, and, an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.
36. **(New)** A system as claimed in claim 34 wherein the customer premise equipment is programmed to automatically return the transaction indicia through the communications network.